

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PRETOR 01312 081054Z
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15
NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 ACDA-12 MCT-01
/086 W

-----015086 081101Z /14

O 081000Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 659
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE
INFO AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMEMBASSY GABORONE
AMEMBASSY LAGOS
AMEMBASSY LILONGWE
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

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CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: MOPS, PINS, RH, ZA
SUBJECT: RHODESIA: RAID ON ZAMBIA

REF: LUSAKA 0722; CAPE TOWN 0443

1. DAILY PRESS IN SOUTH AFRICA REPORTS RHODESIAN MILITARY
HEADQUARTERS AS CONFIRMING RAID INTO KANYEMBA, FORMERLY
CALLED FEIRA. ACCORDING TO A DEFENSE FORCE COMMUNIQUE,
THE RAID WAS LAUNCHED AGAINST A ZIPRA TRAINING AND
STAGING CAMP ONLY AFTER THE "SECURITY FORCES WERE SATISFIED
THAT THERE WERE NO ZAMBIAN SECURITY FORCES OR CIVILIANS
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IN THE TERRORIST BASE." REPORTEDLY 38 "TERRORISTS" WERE
KNOWN KILLED AND ONE RHODESIAN SOLDIER WAS KILLED.
THE RHODESIANS DID NOT MENTION THE LOSS OF ANY OF
THEIR AIRCRAFT OR EQUIPMENT BUT SAID THEY HAD
DESTROYED OR CAPTURED "A LARGE AMOUNT OF SOPHISTICATED
SOVIET ARMS AND EQUIPMENT." THE RAID OCCURED,
ACCORDING TO THE COMMUNIQUE, AFTER THE SECURITY FORCES

SIGHTED SEVERAL GUERRILLAS APPROACHING RHODESIA BY BOAT.
THE GUERRILLAS WERE DESTROYED BUT THEN IT WAS REALIZED
THEY WERE PART OF A LARGER OPERATION ABOUT TO BE
LAUNCHED. IN A "SELF-DEFENSE OPERATION", THE RHODESIANS
THEN ATTACKED KANYEMBA.

2. IN SALISBURY, REVEREND SITHOLE IS REPORTED TO HAVE
REACTED THAT ANY INVADING ENEMIES OF THE INTERNAL
SETTLEMENT WOULD BE OPPOSED "WITH EVERY BIT OF OUR
LIVES." A CHIRAU SPOKESMAN SAID "IF IT IS IN THE
INTERESTS OF THE ARMED FORCES TO DEFEND THE NATIONAL
INTEREST, THE DECISION SHOULD REST WITH THE COMMANDER
OF THE ARMED FORCES." THE ONLY CRITICAL STATEMENT
CAME FROM THE MUZOREWA CAMP, WHEN A SPOESMAN REPORTEDLY
SAID MUZOREWA COULD NOT HAVE KNOWN ABOUT THE ATTACK
AND "WE HAVE ARRIVED AT THIS SETTLEMENT TO MAKE PEACE
AND YOU DON'T MAKE PEACE BY CROSSING FOREIGN BORDERS."
SABC REPORTED ON MARCH 8 THAT MUZOREWA HAS ALSO
FOLLOWED THIS LINE IN NEW YORK, SAYING HE
WAS "SHOCKED" AND THAT HE AND HIS PEOPLE HAD NOT BEEN
INFORMED ABOUT THE RAID. MUZORWA REPORTEDLY ADDED
THAT UNDER A TRANSITIONAL GOVERNMENT, HE WOULD
"HAVE CONTROL OVER SUCH ACTION AND WOULD PROMISE TO
SEE THAT NO OTHER PERSONS WOULD BE KILLED IN THE
FIGHTING."

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3. COMMENT: THIS REACTION ON THE PART OF THE
NATIONALIST PARTIES SEEMS TO REFLECT THE DIVISION
WE HAVE NOTED BETWEEN MUZOREWA AND THE OTHERS
(CAPE TOWN 0445 AND 0285, AND LUSAKA 0684). IT MAY
ALSO BE INDICATIVE OF ONE OF THE POTENTIAL DIVISIVE
ISSUES-THE CONDUCT OF THE WAR-THAT COULD YET THROW
A MONKEY WRENCH INTO THE SMOOTH WORKING OF THE INTERNAL
SETTLEMENT.
BOWDLER

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